(III) *Madras Presidency.* 38° U. P. arrack is issued in the Madras, Chingleput, South Arcot (excluding frontier tracts), Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevelly and the Niligris Districts, and 35° U. P. elsewhere except in the areas around Pondicherry and in the Agency tracts where the strength is 40° U. P. and 60° U. P. respectively.

(*b*) There is no proposal to reduce the strength of arrack during the current contract which expires by the end of 1109. The question whether the issue strength of arrack is to be reduced or not will be considered when the next contract is to be auctioned.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know whether the dilution of the liquor is not a means of reducing consumption?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Yes, but it must satisfy the people. Even as it is, there is a general feeling that the liquor supplied is not strong enough. I have had representations to that effect from several contractors; and they say that, to put down malpractices, it will be better to issue arrack of twenty-five degrees U. P. They say that people are sure to resort to malpractices unless the liquor supplied is sufficiently strong.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI. Have the Government any idea of bringing the liquor strength here down to the level of the strength in Cochin?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: In all the northern taluks bordering the Cochin State, we issue arrack of the same strength as in Cochin. Though arrack of 60° U. P. is also available for issue in the Cochin State, there is no demand for that arrack here.

Conduct of the sale of arrack, toddy, opium and ganja.

74. MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) who conducts the auction sales and resales of arrack, toddy, opium and ganja shops in Travancore, and

(*b*) who conducts the same in Cochin, Mysore and the Madras Presidency?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: (*a*) In Travancore, the auction sales of arrack and toddy shops are conducted by the Excise Commissioner before the beginning of each contract period, while the resales of such shops are conducted by the Assistant Excise Commissioners. The original auction sale and resale of opium and ganja shops are conducted by the Assistant Excise Commissioners.

(*b*) No information is available.

Insect pest in Central Travancore.

75. MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla cum Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Entomologist in the Agricultural Department has toured in any part of Central Travancore during 1106 to 1108;

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[Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai.]

(*b*) whether they are aware that the Agricultural Inspector at Tiruvalla and the Demonstrator at Chengannur have reported during this period about insect pest within the jurisdiction of those officers; and

(*c*) what action has been taken on the above reports?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Ag. Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): The answer is in the affirmative. The Entomologist visited Kumarakom and most of the villages in Kuttanad in connection with the eradication of rice stem borer pest and the cocoanut leaf roller pest.

(*b*) The Agricultural Inspector, Tiruvalla and the Agricultural Demonstrator, Cengannur, have reported to the Entomologist about the outbreaks of some pests of the cocoanut palm and paddy within their jurisdiction.

(*c*) On receipt of their reports the Entomologist gave these officers detailed instructions in regard to the measures to be adopted in combating the pests.

Acquisition of land for the Kottayam-Kumarakam road.

76. MR. M. N. NARAYANA MENON (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the date on which land acquisition proceedings for the Kottayam-Kumarakam road were started;

(*b*) when the land will be fully acquired; and

(*c*) in what year the said road can be completed?

MR. L. H. JACOB: (*a*) 24-6-1933.

(*b*) When the land acquisition proceedings are completed by the Land Revenue Department.

(*c*) The date of completion will depend on the yearly grant allotted for the work in the budget. The estimate for the first two sections alone is Rs. 36,700. (Expenditure till the end of 1108 is about Rs. 7,500).

Grant of copies of Kanom documents to Jenmies free of charge.

77. MR. K. N. KESAVAN NAMPUTIRIPAD (*Jenmies*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received any memorial from the Jenmies of Travancore stating that they should be permitted to get attested copies of *kanom* documents from Sub-Registrar's offices free of charge; and

(*b*) whether they or the Jenmikaram Settlement Officer have given any instruction to the Sub-Registrars throughout the State for giving attested copies of *kanom* documents to Jenmies free of charge?

MR. N. S. RAMAN PILLAI: (*a*) No memorial has been received.

(*b*) The reply is in the negative.

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